

SENATE BILL 2589

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49, Chapter 6, relative to state-mandated assessments.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year and annually thereafter, a state-mandated assessment administered to any student shall be administered within the state's prescribed testing window and subject to the following limitations:

(1) Reading and English language arts assessments shall be administered annually for students in grades three (3) through ten (10);

(2) Mathematics assessments shall be administered:

(A) Annually for students in grades three (3) through eight (8);

(B) One (1) time in algebra I for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12); and

(C) One (1) time in geometry for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12);

(3) Science assessments shall be administered for students in grades five (5) and eight (8);

(4) Biology assessments shall be administered one (1) time for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12);

(5) Social studies assessments shall be administered for students in grades four (4) and seven (7); and

(6)

(A) An examination administered in grade eleven (11) to assess student readiness for postsecondary education as required by § 49-6-6001(b)(1), which may include the ACT or SAT;

(B) If the ACT is taken to satisfy the requirements of § 49-6-6001(b)(1), the student's ACT score shall be calculated as twenty-five percent (25%) of the student's course grade;

(C) For purposes of subdivision (a)(6)(B), the following ACT scores shall be calculated in the course grade for English III as follows:

- (i) Eighteen (18) or higher is the equivalent of an A;
- (ii) Sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) is the equivalent of a B;
- (iii) Fourteen (14) or fifteen (15) is the equivalent of a C;
- (iv) Twelve (12) or thirteen (13) is the equivalent of a D;

and

- (v) Eleven (11) or lower is the equivalent of an F;

(D) For purposes of subdivision (a)(6)(B), the following ACT scores shall be calculated in the course grade for algebra II as follows:

- (i) Twenty-two (22) or higher is the equivalent of an A;
- (ii) Nineteen (19) to twenty-one (21) is the equivalent of a B;
- (iii) Sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) is the equivalent of a C;
- (iv) Thirteen (13) to fifteen (15) is the equivalent of a D;

and

- (v) Twelve (12) or lower is the equivalent of an F;

(E) For purposes of subdivision (a)(6)(B), the following ACT scores shall be calculated in the course grade for chemistry as follows:

- (i) Twenty-three (23) or higher is the equivalent of an A;
 - (ii) Twenty (20) to twenty-two (22) is the equivalent of a B;
 - (iii) Seventeen (17) to nineteen (19) is the equivalent of a C;
 - (iv) Fourteen (14) to sixteen (16) is the equivalent of a D;
- and
- (v) Thirteen (13) or lower is the equivalent of an F; and

(F) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a)(6)(C)-(E), if a student scores at the ACT college readiness benchmark or higher, then that student shall receive the equivalent of an A in the course grade for English III, algebra II, and chemistry; provided, that the student has successfully completed all academic requirements for each course.

(b) This section shall not apply to students with disabilities for whom testing is not appropriate based on the student's IEP.

(c) The state board of education shall make recommendations to the education committee of the senate, the education administration and planning committee of the house of representatives, and the education instruction and programs committee of the house of representatives on the need for any future state-mandated assessments by February 1 of each year.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018, the public welfare requiring it.